



Frequently Asked Questions for victims of crime and survivors who have had a sexual offense evidence collection kit (SOECK) collected by a hospital or medical facility in New York State.

The Office of Victim Services (OVS) funds and supports local victim assistance programs across the state that provide services to victims of crime, survivors, and loved ones. To find a program to provide support, please visit [OVS Resource Connect](#).

**Where is my kit?**

After kits are collected at medical facilities across the State, and they are not sent to law enforcement, they are sent to OVS's confidential and secure storage facility. They are kept for up to 20 years from the date of collection. To look up the status of your kit, please visit the [Find My Kit Portal](#). At any time, you can view the status of your kit and request changes to what happens with your kit.

Kept at OVS Facility	Returned to Victim	Reported to Law Enforcement
<p><b>Who has access to my kit while being stored with OVS?</b></p>	<p><b>Can I pick up my kit?</b></p>	<p><b>Can my kit be released to anybody?</b></p>
<p>Kits are maintained in a secure storage location. The only individuals with access to the kits are authorized OVS staff. OVS uses a tracking system to control access and maintain information for chain of custody.</p>	<p>Kits may only be released to law enforcement. OVS will not release kits to any other individuals. You may request to have your personal items returned to you.</p>	<p>Kits may only be released to law enforcement upon the request of the victim.</p>
<p><b>How long does OVS keep my kit?</b></p>	<p><b>How do I request the return of my personal items?</b></p>	<p><b>What are my reporting options?</b></p>
<p>Kits that are not reported to law enforcement and tested are stored by OVS for 20 years from the date of collection.</p>	<p>To make this request, please complete the OVS Consent Form. You must verify your identity by bringing the form to any victim assistance program, hospital, or law enforcement agency. You may also verify your identity using a notary. You may email the completed form to <a href="mailto:soeck@ovs.ny.gov">soeck@ovs.ny.gov</a>.</p>	<p>You are not required to make a police report. OVS will store kits that are not reported for 20 years. If you want your kit to be released to law enforcement, you may need to make a police report. Please contact the local law enforcement agency where the incident occurred for more information on making a police report.</p>
<p><b>What happens to a kit after 20 years?</b></p>		<p><b>What happens to my kit once it is released to law enforcement?</b></p>
<p>You will receive a notification 90 days before the end of the 20-year period. You may choose to have your personal items returned to you at any time. You may also choose to have your kit released to law enforcement at any time during this 20-year period. If you do not want your personal items returned to you or released to law enforcement, OVS will destroy the materials after this 20-year period.</p>		<p>Once law enforcement picks up a kit, OVS no longer has information about the kit or its status. Please reach out to your local law enforcement agency where you reported the incident.</p>
		<p><b>What is the status of the investigation of my kit?</b></p>
		<p>OVS does not receive information about the investigation. You must contact the law enforcement agency assigned to your case if you have questions after a kit has been reported and released.</p>

**What if my question was not answered here?**

Please contact [soeck@ovs.ny.gov](mailto:soeck@ovs.ny.gov) for any other questions about your kit.